TRESTLEBOARD

July & August

Bruce Gavin

Master

Greetings from the East

This month I address why event RSVPs are so important to our lodge.

The high costs of fuel and inflation are pressuring our mobility, travel and all the trappings of life that depend upon transportation. Lodge meal events are not exempt from this economic pressure.

Recently, I have implemented a dinner pricing schedule that came to my attention as being used by the Natoma Lodge in Folsom. Following their example, I have priced our Stated Meeting dinners with a reduction in price from $15 to $5 for Masonic Wives, Widows and our Youth Groups. Children under age 12 eat for free. This pricing plan has gained the lodge an increase in dinner participation without a loss of overall revenue.

As of this writing in June, the Lodge refreshment fund is running in the black after half a year of this pricing. As per the California Masonic Code, our regular meals are not intended to be fundraisers, so we measure success with their expenses breaking even or even moderately profitable.

Your officers are diligent in careful shopping and menu selections to maximize the quantity and quality of our meals while maintaining a solid grip on the expenses. All of our meals are prepared by the Brothers working in the kitchen for the benefit of the Lodge. This is done expressly to avoid the unworkable expense of catering these meals.

The RSVPs we request are vital to tailor accurately the amount of food purchased with the number of guests attending the event. Your officers tread a fine line between over purchasing food vs running short.

Recently, we had 15 RSVP no-shows out of 78 reservations. This means the food was purchased for those 15 guests who did not pay for it. Depending upon the type of meal, this could be 15 ribeye steaks or 15 hamburgers, buns and condiments.

To counteract this waste, guests who RSVP but fail to attend and pay for their meal will be sent an invoice. Guests have the option of paying online for their meal at the time of the reservation. If they fail to show, their meal cost is covered.

I fully support those guests who refuse to make online payments. With this in mind, our Lodge will continue to accept Pay-At-The-Door payments for RSVP guests. Walk-ins without an RSVP are subject to a $5 surcharge and food on an “as available” basis, and not guaranteed a meal. Similar to flying standby on the airlines, meals are subject to availability after the reserved guests are seated.

Fraternally,

Bruce Gavin, Master

Doug Jones

Senior Warden

Greetings from the West

July brings with it the celebration of our nation's independence. Across the country, citizens gather to commemorate the courage, sacrifice, and vision of those who established a nation founded upon liberty and self-government.

To a Freemason, however, the idea of independence carries an even deeper meaning.

The freedoms secured by our nation's founders were not intended to grant license to do as one pleases, but rather the opportunity to govern oneself according to conscience, reason, and moral law. Such self-government begins not in legislatures or courts, but within the individual heart.

Freemasonry teaches that true freedom is found in mastery over oneself. The rough ashlar is not made perfect by external force, but through patient labor. Likewise, a man becomes truly free when he learns to govern his passions, improve his character, and dedicate himself to the service of others.

The principles upon which our nation was founded - liberty, equality, and justice - resonate deeply within the teachings of the Craft. In the lodge room, men meet upon the level regardless of their station in life and are encouraged to seek truth, practice tolerance, and cultivate brotherly love. These lessons prepare us not only to become better Masons, but better citizens as well.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us remember that the preservation of liberty depends upon the character of those who enjoy it. The American experiment in self-government continues with each generation, and as Freemasons, we are called to contribute to that experiment by building ourselves into better men and serving our communities with integrity, charity, and fidelity. Our obligations extend beyond the lodge room and into our daily lives, where our actions demonstrate the timeless principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate the newly initiated and passed brethren who have recently joined our ranks. It has been encouraging to see our lodge continue to grow with good men seeking light in Masonry. Each new brother brings unique talents and perspectives that strengthen our lodge and help secure its future.

To our seasoned brethren, I encourage you to welcome and engage these newer members. Share your experiences, answer their questions, and help guide them on their Masonic journey. To our newer brethren, I encourage you to become involved in the life of the lodge in whatever way you are able. Whether helping at an event, assisting with a meal, participating in a degree, or simply attending our stated meetings, your involvement matters.

The traditions we enjoy today were handed down to us by the brethren who came before. It is now our responsibility to preserve them, strengthen them, and pass them on to the next generation. Together, through active participation, mentorship, and genuine fellowship, we can ensure that Harding San Juan Lodge continues to thrive for many years to come.

Doug Jones, Senior Warden

John Scofield, P.M.

Junior Warden

Greetings from the South, John Scofield, P.M.

Our June dinner was well attended and it looked as though everyone enjoyed their meal. Thank you to Worshipful Tom Tompkins for smoking those ribs. They were good. I would also like to thank Brother Cris Bryceson for helping me out in the kitchen, he has become my right-hand man. Thank you Cris, I appreciate you.

NO dinners for July and August. The Ladies from Leisure Hour will be preparing our September meal. Look for future emails to what they will be preparing for us.

Our June Fellowship night had to be moved to July 1st. It was also well attended. I will have to wait till our degree schedules are out before setting the date for our next Fellowship night. Be watching your email for those updates.

As you know we have had a sudden influx of no shows at our events. My suggestion would be to prepay for these food events when you make your RSVP. Starting in September if you make a reservation and do not cancel by the cutoff date you will be invoiced and expected to pay for that meal. We purchase our food based on those reservations and if you don't show now we have wasted food and we all know how the cost of food has risen. So, notice is given you must cancel by the cutoff day or you will be invoiced.

Have a great summer folks and we will see you in early Fall.

That's it for now folks. Take care and be safe.

John Scofield, P.M., Jr. Warden

John Scofield, P.M.
Hallboard President

Hello and Happy Summer, Everyone!

I'm pleased to report that everything around the lodge is going well. All systems are in good working order, and we have a couple of small projects planned for completion this summer. We look forward to sharing updates as they progress.

The lodge garden is thriving this season. I currently have an abundance of fresh herbs ready for harvesting, so if anyone would like some fresh herbs, please feel free to reach out to me at the lodge.

The vegetable garden is also doing very well. The tomatoes are coming along nicely, the peppers are beginning to produce fruit, and we have plenty of Roma and San Marzano tomatoes growing perfect for canning later in the season.

I hope everyone enjoys a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer.

Respectfully submitted

John Scofield, P.M.

Hallboard President and "Resident Horticulturist"

Please take the time to read this

Your 2026 dues are vital to sustaining our Lodge. Your contributions keep operations running smoothly, support youth groups that nurture future leaders, and help other lodges in need, such as those affected by disasters like the LA fires. Timely dues payments ensure our community thrives and allows us to extend support where it's most needed. Thank you to everyone who has already paid and continues to uphold our shared values. So far this year we only have 7 members who haven't paid their 2026 dues, thanks to the other 199 of you who have paid your dues.

2026 HSJ Lodge Officers

Bruce Gavin (Sharon) ……...Master

Douglas W. Jones (Heather)…..……..Senior Warden

John Scofield, P.M. (Lady Bug)…….……Junior Warden

Edward E. Rose, P.M. (Elaine) ……...Treasurer

Bob Jackson (Terri) ……..……Secretary

Paul W.A. Cary, P.M. (Jaime) ……..……...……...Assistant Secretary

Christopher Globis (Laura)..……..Chaplain

Mike Ramirez (Jordan) ....…….……Senior Deacon

Mark Young (Annette)..... Junior Deacon

Abtin Hassani (Parisa)…..…… Marshal

Stephen Rankin (Rae) …..……..…… Senior Steward

Tom Angello, P.M. (Theresa)……..……....Junior Steward

Cris Bryceson (Joy) …….. Tiler

Tom Tompkins, III, P.M. (Lynn) ……..……..… Head Candidates Coach

Jeffery E. Robertson, P.M. (Angela) ...……..Officers Coach

Harding San Juan Lodge, No. 579 F. & A.M.

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Trestle Board Editor, Bob Jackson

July 2026

Mason's Birthdays

Charles	Hancock	1964-07-02	2
Donald	Ekstrom	1941-07-03	3
Benjamin	Schwartz	1984-07-05	5
Justin	Whitsell	1981-07-07	7
Jeffery	Potts	1954-07-08	8
Michael	Riley	1952-07-09	9
George	Sims	1963-07-10	10
Dennis	Micheletti	1942-07-12	12
James	Myers	1937-07-12	12
Darrell	Redding	1930-07-14	14
Clifford	Howe	1952-07-15	15
Billy	Mayfield	1955-07-15	15
Peter	Seamons	1984-07-16	16
Ioan	Senuca	1974-07-19	19
Eugene	Weekes	1927-07-19	19
Kenneth	Hunt	1928-07-20	20
William	Boxell, Jr, P.M.	1944-07-26	26
Mark	Allen	1962-07-31	31
James	Jackson	1984-07-31	31
Floyd	Kuderer	1934-07-31	31

July 2026

Masonic Anniversaries

Peter	Seamons	4
David	Arvonio	18
Kevin	Seirer	26
Willie	Seirer, Jr.	26
Steven	Metheny, P.M.	28
Harold	Bussard	29
George	Vela	33
Thomas	Wentz, P.M,	34
Douglas	Milan	46

July 2026

Ladies Birthdays

Mary	Pontius	4
Mollie	Romero	7
Melody	Brown	8
Glee	Highfill	9
Marcia	Blankenship	12
Judy	Meadows	12
Terri	Jackson	13
Marilyn	Rae	21
Margie	Miramontes	21
Karen	Sloan	25
Jenny	Stern	27

August 2026
Mason's Birthdays

Scott	Rathburn	2
Leigh	Leidig	8
Adam	Roberts	9
Ronald	Dodrill, P.M.	10
Kevin	Kemper	10
Gary	Roberts	10
David	Christensen	12
Jeffrey	Stevens	12
Jay	Hyde	13
Arthur	Hawkins	16
Michael	Robertson, P.M.	16
Dennis	Butts	17
Tommy	Caster	17
Gary	Macauley	17
Wayne	Getz	18
Eric	Rimbey	19
James	Watt, P.M.	19
William	Freeze	22
Barry	Pavan	25
Don	McCracken	27
Harold	Werle, P.M.	27
Mark	Young, P.M.	28
Timothy	Scott	30

August 2026
Masonic Anniversaries

Jefferson	Henson, II	23
Harold	Werle, P.M.	45

August 2026
Ladies Birthday's

Karen	Di Loreto	5
Sally Jo	Larsen	5
Colleen	Kemper	11
Lorna Vaboril	Moses	19
Heather	Jones	21
Suzy	Nazaryan	21
Elaine	Seirer	27
Kristi	Kandt	28
Sandra	Gunderson	30
Amy	Meadows	30
Lavern	Holdren	31
Wanda	Young	31

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AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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